

Message Text

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SUBJ: IZVESTIA ARTICLE ON US CULTURAL PRESENTATION: ODETTA
TOUR OF USSR

1. UZVESTIA JUNE 21, QOUR, CARRIED HIGHLY FAVORABLE, FULL COLUMN, ARTICLE WITH PHOTO BY DEPUTY FOREIGN EDITOR M. STURUA, ENTITLED "WHEN ODETTA SINGS," ON AMERICAN BLACK FOLK SINGER'S RECENT MONTH-LONG TOUR OF USSR. WHILE BASIS OF ARTICLE DRAWN LARGELY FROM MATERIALS SUPPLIED BY EMBASSY'S PRESS AND CULTURAL SECTION, EDITOR STURUA WAS UNRESTRAINED IN HIS PRAISE OF SINGER (HE ATTENDED HER CONCERT IN SPASO HOUSE AND GOSKONTSERT-ARRANGED PUBLIC CONCERT IN MOSCOW): "ODETTA IS AN OUTSTANDING NEGRO SINGER. HER VOCAL SKILLS ARE A FILIGREE. HER CONTRALTO IS RICH AND MULTI-FACETED. . . HER VOICE IS AN INSTRUMENT OF UNLIMITED RANGE, OF A RARE PROFOUNDNESS AND PURITY OF TONE. AND STILL ITS MAIN ADVANTAGE IS THAT IT COMES TO OUR HEARTS, TOUCHES THE FIBERS OF OUR SOULS. . ."

2. STURUA QUOTES ODETTA'S BELIEF THAT MUSIC IS FIRST OF ALL COMMUNICATION BETWEEN PEOPLES AND REMEDY AGAINST ALIENATION AND STATES HIS BELIEF THET HER". . . SOVIET AUDIENCE HAS OPENED ITS HANDS NOT ONLY TO APPLAUD ODETTA'S VOCAL MASTER-SHIP (BUT THEIR HEARTS AS WELL)." STURUA CONCLUDES: "NOW WHEN A TURN FROM CONFRONTATION TO COOPERATION IS TAKING PLACE IN SOVIET-AMERICAN RELATIONS, THE ROLE OF CULTURAL FIGURES AND
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ARTISTS IS INCREASING FOR BOTH OF OUR COUNTRIES TO CREATE AND

FURTHER DEVELOP A CLIMATE OF MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING AND FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO GREAT PEOPLES ON WHICH TO A TREMENDOUS DEGREE DEPENDS THE CAUSE OF PEACE ON EARTH."

3. COMMENT: TONE OF ARTICLE MAKES IT SOUND LIKE CLEAR SIGNAL THAT BROAD-EXPOSURE TOURS OF PERFORMING ARTISTS OF ODETTA'S CALIBER ARE WELCOME FEATURE OF BILATERAL RELATIONS IN THIS PERIOD OF DETENTE.
STOESSEL

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